

T H E

Little Review;

O R, A N

Inquisition of Scandal;

Consisting in *Answers of Questions and Doubts, Remarks, Observation and Reflection.*

Wednesday, August 21. 1705.

THE Story following, the Society are oblig'd to believe, because positively asserted; otherwise they should have thought themselves oblig'd to Question the Matter of Fact, rather than examine the Reasons.

Gentlemen of the Scandal Club,

HAVING with great Pleasure read several Critical and Ingenious Resolutions by you given to divers, as well Natural as Political Queries; I am encouraged to trouble you with the following Relation, (which was delivered me by several very Credible Persons) and the rather, for that it may not be altogether ungrateful to the Publick. The Fact stands thus.

A certain Mechanick in the Western Parts having, for several Years, labour'd under the severe inconveniency of so harsh, difficult, brizgly a Beard, that it not only proved exireamly troublesome to himself, but to that degree disobliging to the Barber's Razors, that at length he could not prevail upon any Barber in the Town to scrape off, (as they despitely term'd it) his Hog's Bristles. At which the poor dejected Patient being passionately

affected, imprecated the Curse of Sterility upon his hated Beard, the Cause of his Contempt and Misery: Within a few days after which, not only the Hair of his Beard, but that also of his Head, and all other parts of his Body, intirely fell off; and thenceforth the Face of the Man was, and at this Instant is, as smooth and free from all manner of Hair, as that of a New-born Child; and his Head, &c. as clear of Hair as his Face; which Accident is esteemed Wonderful and Preternatural by all that know, or have heard the Fact ——— You may depend on the Truth of this Relation, and therefore I would intreat the favour of your Thoughts, whether or no this extraordinary change in the Person abovementioned, might proceed from any Natural Cause, as Intense Vexation, Grief, &c.

Your Answer will not only much oblige one to you not unknown, but be transmitted also to the Country where this Accident happen'd, and where your Reviews will not, I presume, for the future, be unacceptable. I am

Yours, &c.

A. B.

Z

It

It has always been the Societies Opinion, That we are by the Error of Custom and Temper, so fond of believing things Supernatural, that are not so, that we make more Miracles in our own mistaken Whymies, than ever God Almighty works himself.

At the same time they are far from prescribing the Invisible Power, absolutely to second Causes, and locking up all Supernatural Operations.

The falling off the Man's Hair just at the time of his rash Imprecation, may very well be allow'd to be a Judgment of Providence, to shew the Power of an Invisible hand, which can take us at our words.

And the Society might make very good Improvements of this Supposition, by way of Caution to those Gentlemen, who are so very Importunate with God Almighty, to Damn and Destroy them; but as Preaching is not their Talent, no more than it is their Employment; they remit that Capacious Subject to the Gentlemen of the Gown, whose Province it is, and who know much better how to carry it on.

But they cannot but recommend the thought to another sort of Gentlemen, who by way of reverse to the vulgar horrid Expressions of G—d D—e, because they will be able to take the Great Name in vain, without a Crime, if that be possible, mend it with a *God take my Soul*, and sure, says the *Airy Profligate*, there can be no harm.

Give the Author of this leave to boast of some Success, Gentlemen, on this very Head, hearing a Man of ingenious Parts using that loose Expression on every Trifle, and once with some sort of vehemence, tho' on a trifling occasion, he lifted up his Hands and his Eyes to add to the Solemnity of it, as if he would have us believe it was a Prayer, and not an Excurtion of the Tongue. The Author of this, immediately stepped up to him, and whisper'd to him tho' with some eagerness, *Sir, would you have him come just now?* The manner, as well as meaning, gave his Folly such a shock, that absolutely cur'd him of rash Expressions; and he retains the Impression to this day.

However retaining, as is observ'd a due Reverence to Supernatural Power, all the Sterility of this Man's Flesh, and the suddain falling off his Hair, might very well happen, either from some Poisonous Quality he had Casually taken in with his Food, or drawn in with the Air, or from some Disease, or from one of the

Infinite Latent Causes, which make visible Alterations in the Constitution of Human Bodies; and in this Case the Connexion of the Circumstances might have no Correspondence with the Causes.

THE Society has answered many Letters upon the Barbarous Subject of Pressing our Land-men and Tradesmen, but they have never yet had occasion to Treat of Kidnapping before.

Gentlemen,

GIVE me leave to beg your Advice in the behalf of a Young Man, who being an Apprentice, and his Master being an extraordinary Passionate Man, but caused him to be impress'd for a very inconsiderable Fault, and he hath remained on Board the Smack almost three Weeks, having not Cloaths sufficient to keep him warm. But lying on the cold Ballast among strange Company, and having nothing to shift him, is almost (as it were) devoured with Vermin: His Master will not be work'd on by any Persuasions, to send him any thing, tho' he hath all his Cloaths in his Possession: And his Friends have endeavour'd to get him off, but in vain, for it seems it cannot be done, without his Master's Consent.

I desire you, Gentlemen, to take this matter into consideration, and let me have an Answer in your next Paper, if possible, and you will very much oblige

Your Friend and Servant,

Q. A. Z.

P. S. His Master is a Foreigner.

This Case the Society read with some horror, not for the Misfortune of this one Young Man, who perchance may do better in the Queen's Service, than he would have done in the Service of a Merciless Man.

But when the Society considered the Ocean of Crimes, the Murthers, Banishment, Conveying away Orphans, Kidnapping of Youth, betraying of Friends, Husbands, Lovers, and the Multitude of Mischiefs that attend such a Practice; they could not forbear saying, This is a Wound in the Oeconomy of our Publick Affairs which wants healing, and which will in its Season, meet with some suitable Application.

In the mean time for this Brute, the Society think the horrid Affair so easie to be Punish'd, by the Civil Magistrate, that their Advice is needless.

If he was his Servant, there was some Covenants, Contract or Agreement between 'em; if none, then he is no more his Servant; if his Master caus'd him to be Press'd, and it can be prov'd, he may have his remedy against him as a Kidnapper and a Villain, and may be indist'd; if he has Cloaths, or any Necessaries at his Master's, he must deliver them, and cannot detain them; if he was to find him Cloaths, any Justice of the Peace on the Production of his Indentures, will Compel him to it.

In the mean time they cannot but say, it is a horrid Practise, and such a Man ought to have a Mark set upon him, or a Token hung out at his door, that no body for the future should trust him with a Servant, or a Son, but they who design to have them Abused, Trepan'd and Kidnap'd into the Queen's Service.

Many are the Evil Consequences of Disobedience to Parents, and even as many are thole of the Negligence of Parents, in the Management of their Children; in both which Relations, without doubt, are various Duties, the early and first omissions of which on one side, are the Causes in part of the same things on the other.

Gentlemen,

A. B. a very Tenacious Rich Man, has an only Son, T. B. but meanly furnish'd in the Upper Rooms, and perhaps not so well Cultivated neither, as the Soil would admit; However, he's arriv'd to Tears of Maturity, and being frequently at his Father's Country-House (not many Miles from London-Bridge) was easily drawn in by the Servant Maid (of Indifferent Aspect) whom he afterwards Married; she (finding how 'twas with her, and dreading a Storm) quits her Service; and in a short time after, the whole Intrigue was discovered; A. B. calls his Son T. B. to Account, who confesses the Fact, with the same simplicity he alled it; and with a like obstinacy Justifies himself. This provokes A. B. who

presently discards him — Poor T. B. with an equal Stock of Sence and Money, goes to his Wife poor as himself (tho' perhaps not altogether so helpless) and there bites hard on the Curb of his inexorable Father, who turns a deaf Ear to all the moving Complaints of him, his Wife, and his (lately born) Son, whom the W ——— is threaten to send back with a Pafs.

Your Opinion of this Matter is desired in your next Review, by

Your humble Servant,
Philorhem.

A Weak Head and a neglecting Parent must of Necessity finish a Coxcomb Son — Neither had this Man sinned, or his Father, that he was born a Fool; but for ought they know, it was his Father's Sin, and not his, that he was not form'd into a Wise Man; for nothing is so much a Cheat as Nature in its first appearance; a foolish Boy well manag'd makes a Wiser Man, than a Ripe headed Genius without Education.

A. B's. Father in this Case, ought to Reflect upon the Education of his Son, and see, if in it, he cannot find all the Original Causes of his Miscarriage; and if in that Case he has been Negligent, he ought not to cast off his Son for his Folly: Since that Folly is much owing to a Remiss Education.

At last, supposing the Parent not Negligent in the bringing up of his Son, or in any other part of his relative Debt, yet entirely to Cast off our Children for rash and inconsiderate Actions, shows little sence of Duty, less of Affection, and least of all of humane Infirmary; and such should remember if, the Father of us all should treat us Fathers in like manner, we should long since have been abandon'd, and should all be disinherited at last.

He that at all Consider what must be forgiven him from above, will have little heart to be inexorable to any offender below, especially to his own Flesh and Blood.

But unnatural Parents make undutiful Children; and as they are the Cause of each others Crimes, so are they effectually each others Punishment; and the Justice as well as Wisdom of Providence is extraordinary in appointing it so.

Adver-

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ADVERTISEMENT.

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